Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A piston-cylinder assembly comprising:

a cylinder ~~filled with a working medium and extending along~~ having a central axis, the cylinder being fitted with a piston rod guide and having an inner wall with at least one radially inward extending projection adjacent to the piston rod guide~~, the at least one projection extending along a portion of a periphery of an inner wall of the cylinder~~ on one side of the axis;

a piston rod and a piston installed in the cylinder with freedom of movement along the central axis, the piston having an outer diameter and carrying a piston seal which is in contact with the inner wall of the cylinder, the piston seal having an outer diameter, the piston and the piston seal dividing the cylinder into a working space on the piston rod side and a working space away from the piston rod, said working space being filled with a working medium; and

a stop disk mounted on the piston rod axially adjacent to the piston, the stop disk having an outer diameter greater than ~~an~~ the outer diameter of the piston, but smaller than the outer diameter of the piston seal, whereby, in the event of the piston seal being destroyed in a fire, the stop disk rests ~~being dimensioned to rest~~ against the at least one projection ~~in the event of fire so that~~ and the piston rod is tilted with respect to the central axis so that the working medium can escape around the piston.

2. (previously presented) The piston-cylinder assembly of claim 1, wherein the stop disk has non-throttling pass-through openings to permit flow of the working medium from the working space away from the piston rod into the working space on the piston rod side.

3. (previously presented) The piston-cylinder assembly of claim 1, wherein said stop disk is a component of a piston valve.

4. (previously presented) The piston-cylinder assembly of claim 1, further comprising a tension stop between said stop disk and said piston rod guide.

5. (previously presented) The piston-cylinder assembly of claim 4, wherein said tension stop is made of an elastomeric material.

6. (new) The piston-cylinder assembly of claim 1, wherein said stop disk is spaced from the piston.

7. (new) The piston cylinder assembly of claim 1, further comprising a compensating space which is filled with pressurized gas and is separated from the working space away from the piston rod by an axially movable separating piston.

8. (new) The piston cylinder assembly of claim 1, wherein the stop disk is designed to survive a fire.